

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, December 29, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: *Chairman Mike Lawlor*, Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM; *Merit Lajoie* – Office of the Victim Advocate; *Carleton Giles*, Chairperson, Board of Pardons and Paroles; *Sean Conley*, Commissioner, Department of Veteran’s Affairs; *Charlene Russel-Tucker*, Department of Education; *Ariel Riecht*, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; *Scott Semple*, Commissioner, Department of Corrections; *Suzy Story*, Chief Public Defender; *Kevin Kane*, Chief State’s Attorney *Michael Norko*, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services *Steve Grant*, Court Support Services Division; *Josh Howroyd*, DCF Legislative Program Manager, Department of Children and Families

I. Introductions

This meeting was broadcast on CT-N: <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=13582>

The Monthly Indicators Report can be found on the OPM website:

http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/monthlyindicators/monthlyindicatorsreport_dec_2016_final.pdf

II. Welcome and Policy Update

- a. <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cjppd> - here you can find many reports from OPM’s CJPPD
- b. Persons in Prison on 21a-279 class offenses, controlling has dropped 47.2% for sentenced inmates and dropped 60.8% for pre-trial inmates.
- c. And, people who have been admitted to DOC because they can’t afford to post bail is a general downward trend.
- d. Pre-Trial prisoners who did not return from court or posted bail is about 1,000 / month, out of about 1,500 that get sentenced.
- e. Concerns about pre-trial detainees presenting a risk to the public, but 2/3 of them end up back on the street without having been sentenced to a term of incarceration. (Did not return from court) Which begs the question, what is the purpose of that relatively short term of incarceration in a pre-trial status?
- f. The prison population is lowest in 22 years. This trend is assumed in the budget.
- g. Arrests are lower than last year, and last year was a historically low year.
- h. CT had the largest reduction in reported violent crime rate in the past three years (-23%) in the USA.

III. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2016

- a Minutes were adopted following two minor corrections.

IV Commission Correspondence

- b No Commission Correspondence

V. Presentations

- a. No presentations this month

Members provided updates on their agencies and latest initiatives.

Department of Education – They will present next month on school based arrests.

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) – Statewide Narcotics Taskforce 73 pounds of heroin, 103 pound of cocaine and over 17,000 opioid pills were stopped, there were 141 calls for Narcan and 134 people were revived, and 1,500 lethality assessments were conducted this year by the state police.

Chief States Attorney Office –

About to embark on the planning stage of The Singer Grant, they will set up a pilot program in one or two locations where they will devote attention to cases as soon after the arrest as possible and as far before the first court appearance as possible to determine whether or not charges ought to be filed. The decision made by the prosecutor whether or not to file charges is an ongoing process, with this project they will determine as soon as possible what the interests of the public are, and determine if there are alternatives other than prosecution that will do this. Partnering with the Center for Court Innovation, to track data on this.

Department of Correction (DOC) – Opening a new unit for 18-25 at Cheshire Correctional Institution, the staff training will be held January 9th and the unit will open in January 2017. The project was partner with the VERA institute and it is the first of its kind in the nation. The DOC will be taking a look at the female population, because it has not declined in a similar fashion to the male population. An internal committee is meeting, and soon there will be a more external approach for the survey of the female population. There are 400 fewer beds at Osborne since last month, due to the drop in the inmate population.

Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) – Expedited pardons and paroles was piloted with 45 cases last month, new brochures with the new information are being printed and distributed.

Court Support Services Division (CSSD) – They have had a 18-24 year old case load for almost 6 years and offer support to the DOC in advice and support. Rewrite the adult case management information system, they will pilot it in mid-January. The major change in law will alter the criteria the youth admission to a juvenile detention facility. They will create, study, and validate a tool to assess this new juvenile detainment law.

Public Defenders Office – They look forward to working with DOC on the female population, also for the children’s sake. Working with the Center for Court Invocation and two Connecticut court houses for working with CCI on procedural justice issues. Even though crime is down, the Public Defender Office is projecting an increase for them, possibly because of the economy, more people need a public defender, based on a half of year of data from last year. Looking forward to the next legislative session.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

PJOR – see DOC update

Behavioral health – meeting next Thursday

Victim issues – meeting on January 17th, 2017

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

Mike Lawlor adjured the meeting at 10:25am.